



Curriculum Descriptions



The Veterinary Services Careers Program (VSCP) provides in-depth orientation and training opportunities to enable new VS employees to make the adjustment to the Federal Service and have productive careers in APHIS.

Two learning tracks have been developed, Tracks I and II, which nominees apply for in the VSCP. The learning tracks define the specific courses one must complete to receive full credit for completing the VSCP, based upon an individual's job function with VS.

Track I is open to employees in administrative and support positions. Track II is open to Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs), Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) and all other employees in VS technical/scientific positions.

VS employees who meet VSCP nomination criteria will be assigned to one of these tracks. VSCP participants have 2 years to complete the program.

Please scroll down to view more detailed descriptions of each Track.

VSCP Track I

What follows is a glimpse of the overall program.

1. Distance learning:

a. *Orientation, Part A*

CD-ROM

This CD-ROM is Part I of the VSCP Orientation. It contains material that is informative about the U. S. Government, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and its organizational units and programs, including Veterinary Services (VS), the unit of APHIS which is most relevant to your work and learning needs. You should be familiar with the information contained in the CD-ROM before attending Orientation, Part B, 6-8 December 2005.

b. *Program Diseases*

On-line

This course provides an overview of the major VS disease eradication and control programs, such as those for TB, brucellosis, pseudorabies, scrapie, and Johne's disease. Equine and poultry disease initiatives will also be addressed. Discussions about the various regulated industries, including their roles and perspectives, may be included.

c. *Foreign Animal Disease Awareness*

On-line

This course addresses major foreign animal disease threats to the U.S., including their history and etiology; effects on animal and human health; economical and political influences and impact; current status; preventive programs; and the critical role of APHIS, the States, Industry, and Public Health Officials.

2. Core instructor-led training:

a. *Orientation, Part B*

Riverdale, Maryland

6-8 December 2005

In this session you will apply the information gained through the CD-ROM instruction in a series of interactive activities surrounding the VS strategic goals. You will also meet and engage in discussion with those in key positions, using the knowledge of APHIS, VS, and its mission, strategic goals, and objectives, which you have gained through your study of the CD-ROM. This training will provide opportunities for you to broaden your view of the agency and its work beyond your specific area of expertise. You will also develop and maintain vital relationships within VS, and develop pride in the role you perform to support the agency's mission.

b. *Emerging Issues*

Raleigh, NC

21-23 February 2006

This course addresses new or emerging diseases such as Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC), Monkey Pox and SARS. You will be able to discuss the goals and objectives of the newly formed National Surveillance unit, learn the roles and responsibilities around surveillance in wildlife and be introduced to the roles of the Area Emerging Coordinators. You will also be introduced to the Eastern Regional Office, one of the two APHIS Regional "hubs".

c. *Communication and Managing Up:* Fort Collins, CO 17-20 April 2006

This program will give you a core set of training in both technical training (such as correspondence) and interpersonal skills/communication skills (such as team building and maximizing your performance). You will be given individual assessments and feedback. You will also learn to create team building opportunities and to develop more cohesive work groups. Additionally, you will be given a skills-building opportunity which will help you to enhance your career marketability, improve your self-confidence, and help you to meet increasing customer demands. You will also have a tour of the Western Regional Office, one of the two APHIS Regional "hubs".

The core courses of the VSCP are available to all participants, whether you are newly hired through the VSCP or a recently hired employee, known for purposes of this program as an "equivalent."

3. Mentors and Learning Contracts

This element of VSCP is designed to help develop skills needed in your particular job. With the help of a mentor — someone who has experience in and knowledge about APHIS and VS, as well as the ability to coach and communicate — you will develop a Learning Contract. This is a document which outlines your plan for additional training, education, and development. This may include courses, on-the-job training, shadow assignments, details, or other specific learning experiences you need to perform successfully in your new job and to progress in your career with VS. Mentors will be provided for new employees only. "Equivalents" will be given resources to select their own mentors.

VSCP Track II

What follows is a glimpse of the overall program.

1. Distance learning:

a. *Orientation, Part A*

CD-ROM

This CD-ROM is Part I of the VSCP Orientation. It contains material that is informative about the U. S. Government, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and its organizational units and programs, including Veterinary Services (VS), the unit of APHIS which is most relevant to your work and learning needs. You should be familiar with the information contained in the CD-ROM before attending Orientation, Part B, 6-8 December 2005.

b. *Program Diseases*

On-line

This course provides an overview of the major VS disease eradication and control programs, such as those for TB, brucellosis, pseudorabies, scrapie, and Johne's disease. Equine and poultry disease initiatives will also be addressed. Discussions about the various regulated industries, including their roles and perspectives, may be included.

c. *Foreign Animal Disease Awareness*

On-line

This course addresses major foreign animal disease threats to the U.S., including their history and etiology; effects on animal and human health; economical and political influences and impact; current status; preventive programs; and the critical role of APHIS, the States, Industry, and Public Health Officials.

2. Core instructor-led training:

a. *Orientation, Part B*

Riverdale, Maryland

6-8 December 2005

In this session you will apply the information gained through the CD-ROM instruction in a series of interactive activities surrounding the VS strategic goals. You will also meet and engage in discussion with those in key positions, using the knowledge of APHIS, VS, and its mission, strategic goals, and objectives, which you have gained through your study of the CD-ROM. This training will provide opportunities for you to broaden your view of the agency and its work beyond your specific area of expertise. You will also develop and maintain vital relationships within VS, and develop pride in the role you perform to support the agency's mission.

b. *Emerging Issues*

Raleigh, NC

21-23 February 2006

This course addresses new or emerging diseases such as Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC), Monkey Pox and SARS. You will be able to discuss the goals and objectives of the newly formed National Surveillance unit, learn the roles and responsibilities around surveillance in wildlife and be introduced to the roles of the Area Emerging Coordinators. During this time, you will also be introduced to the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) and be introduced to the Eastern Regional Office, one of the two APHIS Regional "hubs".

Basic Epidemiology (AHT only)

Fort Collins, Co

17-20 April 2006

This course uses a problem-based approach to teach the fundamentals of epidemiology. The emphasis of this training is to focus on Animal Health Technician (AHT) expertise and education. You will also have a tour of the Western Regional Office, one of the two APHIS Regional “hubs”.

Basic Epidemiology: (VMO only)

Fort Collins, CO

5-9 June 2006

This course uses a problem-based approach to teach the fundamentals of epidemiology. The emphasis of this training is to focus on Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) expertise and education. You will also have a tour of the Western Regional Office, one of the two APHIS Regional “hubs”.

The core courses of the VSCP are available to all participants, whether you are newly hired through the VSCP or a recently hired employee, known for purposes of this program as an "equivalent."

3. Mentors and Learning Contracts

This element of VSCP is designed to help develop skills needed in your particular job. With the help of a mentor — someone who has experience in and knowledge about APHIS and VS, as well as the ability to coach and communicate — you will develop a Learning Contract. This is a document which outlines your plan for additional training, education, and development. This may include courses, on-the-job training, shadow assignments, details, or other specific learning experiences you need to perform successfully in your new job and to progress in your career with VS. Mentors will be provided for new employees only. “Equivalents” will be given resources to select their own mentors.